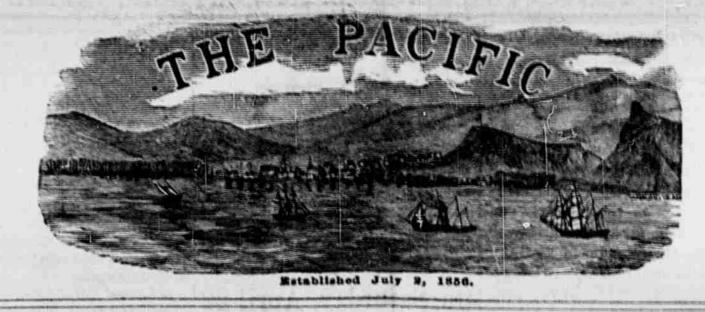
Commercial



Advertiser.

VOL. XVII. NO. 3356.

HONOLULU, HAWAHAN ISLANDS, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1893.

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Commercial Advertiser

H. N. CASTLE, EDITOR.

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THE CHEMIST DOES NOT REACH A RESULT.

The Alleged Poisoning Case Auckland, on or about Will Probably Remain a Mystery.

Prof. A. B. Lyons handed in his report on Saturday regarding the Barracks poisoning case. The chemist does not arrive at a conclusion, but he is inclined to think that the poison originated in the stomachs of the men, "as a result

of incipient putrefaction."

To people who were present at the Barracks on last Tuesday night the report of Prof. Lyons is not a disappointment, as it is known that he did not have the proper material to work on. In the first place the stomach ejections which were handed him to analyze were obtained from men who had been attacked with several fits of vomiting, and by some oversight the original stomach ejections, or the ones which would contain the poison, if any, had been thrown away.

Another unlucky circumstance came to light when it was learned that the food which was not eaten by the men had been thrown in a waste barrel, and as a result was all mixed up.

Judging from the chemist's report it looks as though the mystery will not be cleared up, for the present at least.

No amount of talk can convince the men who were poisoned that they suffered through an accident. as they feel sure that they were the victims of some diabolical plot. Appended is the report of Prof. A. B. Lyons:

Henolulu, H. I, April 15, 1893. Hon. W. O. SMITH, Attorney-Gen-

DEAR SIR: In accordance with your instructions I have made investigations relating to the cause of the illness of men in the service of the Government, with results sufficiently meagre, but which may be of some

Two bottles were submitted to me containing matters vomited by some of the men, with request that I examine these for poisons. The nature of the symptoms clearly indicating the action of some powerful irritant, I have made tests for the principal irritant poisons, but have not discovered any of these. I have made also general tests for alkaloids, these constituting

the most active vegetable poisons, the result again being negative. There is present in the vomited matters certainly something of an irritating nature, which the stomach refused to retain. I have endeavored to isolate by means of solvents this irritating substance and have been able to concentrate it sufficiently to demonstrate its acid nature, but am

unable to give a definite opinion as to its identity. The postponement of symptoms so long after food was taken, and the nature of the symptoms themselves lead certainly to a suspicion that the poison has been generated in the

stomach itself as a result of incipient

putrefaction, or of abnormal fermentative changes.

The chemical nature of poisons generated in this manner-of which the number is possibly large—is as yet little understood, the compounds themselves being probably very un-stable, and so easily altered in any attempt to isolate them. One which is generated in cheese, and sometimes in milk, has been identified, proving to be an exceedingly unstable body. This has not the reaction of an alkaloid, as some other poisonous products of putrefaction (ptomaines) have. I received also some articles taken

from the tables (condiments) and from the waste barrel, which I have examined somewhat in comparison with the vomited matters, but thus DAILY PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER far only with negative results. There are, of course, numerous poi-

sonous substances, the chemistry of which has not yet been studied, and this circumstance must be borne in mind in forming any conclusion. Respectfully submitted, A. B. Lyons.

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